

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
July 12, 2007**

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- 1. Introductions:** Members and guests introduced themselves. Attendance sheet attached.
- 2. Review of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for June 14, 2007 were approved and seconded.
- 3. Chair's Comments: Jim Polk,** Chair, advised members that there would be no August meeting. The next scheduled meeting is September 13. [Committee agreed to move to Sept. 20 to accommodate Rosh Hashanah]

The tentative date for the start of the Transit Center Interim Operations Site (IOS) has been moved to September 30. The change in dates is not unexpected, given the complexity of the project.

Mr. Polk introduced guest **Vicky Grim**, who provided a presentation on the State's efforts to mitigate housing costs.

- 4. Presentation: Commuter-Friendly Mortgage Programs: Ms. Grim,** Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, explained that DHCD is primarily a lender that helps to housing more affordable for moderate income households. A separate division in the agency is also involved in neighborhood revitalization.

Ms. Grim presented information on the state's "House Keys 4 Employees" program. The program was launched in 2005, and has been fairly successful. The program allows for the purchase of a home for someone who is using one of the mortgage products through the Maryland Mortgage Program to get additional funding for down payment and closing costs. Most potential home owners are able to meet the monthly payments, but need assistance with these extra costs. The state of Maryland will match the contribution of employers who sign up to participate in the House Keys 4 Employees program.

Employers sign up for House Keys 4 Employees to enhance recruitment and retention of employees and to keep their work force closer to the job. The main points are listed below; presentation materials included in the meeting packet:

- House Keys program must be used in conjunction with Maryland Mortgage Program:
 - Borrower's total household income must be within program income limits (\$94,500 for 1-2 ppl; \$108,675 for 3 or more – Montgomery Co.).
 - House price must be within program house purchase limits (\$429,620 – Montgomery Co.).
 - Statewide network of Approved Lenders process loan application.
 - 30 & 40 year amortizing loans.
 - Interest-only loans.
 - Fixed low rates for life of loan.
- DCHD will match any participating employer's contribution up to \$5,000 toward down payment/closing costs, and up to \$10,000 through companion program "Smart Keys 4 Employees."
 - Smart Keys 4 Employees is a Smart Growth initiative.
 - State will double its match of employer contribution, up to 10K if: Borrower is buying a home within 10 miles of place of employment (or within county boundary); and house is located in a Priority Funding Area.
- House Keys for Employees is provided in addition to any of DCHD's other payment assistance programs.
- Allows first time home buyers to purchase a home that would have otherwise been out of reach.

For additional information, contact: Vicky Grim
Deputy Director, Single Family Programs
Community Development Administration
MD Dept. of Housing & Community Development
410-514-7440
grim@mdhousing.org

- 5. Purple Line:** Mr. Polk noted that there have been a number of Purple Line discussions over the past several months. While there is no firm route yet decided, and much of it is still in the planning stage, the Committee should consider at some point – once more has been decided – to weigh in with a recommendation on the project.

There was general discussion among committee members of various route possibilities, with an emerging consensus that in order to minimize disruption to downtown the route should have either an above-grade elevation or use a tunnel, at least through the CBD.

Mr. Polk noted that since the plan originally called for nine stops and now has about 20 (in order to better serve local riders), the ultimate decision may be the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) option. Mr. Polk stated that there should be further discussion at the September meeting, with a possible motion for a recommendation, when members have had some more time to think about it.

- 6. Updates - TMD/ DPWT/Police/Other:** Andrew Wexler and Mr. Carlson provided an update of the Silver Spring Walking Tour, June 18th, organized by the county Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. The tour route, which began at Park & Planning and ended at Newell & East West, examined a number of intersections that are considered hazardous and other areas of concern throughout the downtown area of Silver Spring.

The tour was attended by more than 20 representatives from various county and state agencies and community groups.

Participant reps included:

- Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee
- SS TMD Advisory Committee
- MC Dept. of Environmental Protection, representing County Executive Isiah Leggett
- DPWT
- State Highway Administration
- County Council Staff
- M-NCPPC
- MC Police
- Delegate Bill Bronrott

Specific problems identified included:

- Uneven sidewalks
- Sidewalk closures
- No crosswalks
- Lack of uniform crosswalk striping
- Traffic signal timing – too short walk time
- No pedestrian countdown signals
- Vehicles entering/leaving garages
- Driver encroachment into crosswalks

Details are included in the meeting packet.

A follow-up briefing on the status of the various intersection and safety improvements will be provided to the committee.

Theresa O'Steen said that there were no new Traffic Mitigation Plans to recommend for approval. There are 93 TMPs approved for Silver Spring, with four pending.

7. Other Business & Around the Room

The committee agreed that to move the date of the next meeting back one week to **September 20th** to accommodate Rosh Hashanah.

Adjourn

Meeting ended at 9:15 AM

Next meeting: Sept. 20, 2007

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC) Attendance Sheet
July 12, 2007**

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Ali Mahmood	Chevy Chase Bank		X
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Courtney Deines-Jones	The Grimalkin Group	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin	X	
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America	X	
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
Michael Hunston	Discovery Communications, Inc.		X
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Geoffrey Kreig	Merchant Link		X
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sande Brecher, DPWT Transit Services	DPWT Director or Designee		X
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police		X
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Jennifer Deseo	Silver Spring Penguin	X	
Mel Tull	Silver Spring Regional Services Center	X	
Vicky Grim	MD Dept of Housing & Community Development	X	